DAWN

KARACHI Sunday, November 9, 2025

METRO South

KARACHI

Sunset	**05:48** pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	**06:43** am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	**17℃**
Maximum	**30℃**
Humidity	**61%**
Outlook	**Partly Cloudy**

De Ligt rescues United in Spurs draw

Pg.20 SPORT

ARTISTS perform a traditional dance during a ceremony held to mark People's Unity Day of the Russian Federation.—APP Report on Page 14

SHC decides to examine 'whole concept of keeping zoos and caging animals'

• After Rano's relocation to Islamabad, bench broadens scope of petition to welfare of all zoo animals

• In written order released on Saturday, court orders formation of new committee comprising govt officials and civil society members to inspect zoos across Sindh

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has ordered formation of a new committee to visit zoos across the province and suggest steps for improvement as well as sending the exotic animals to their natural habitats.

Inviting suggestions to phase out zoos in the entire province, a two-judge SHC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro and Justice Syed Fiaz-ul-Hassan Shah declared that the court had decided to examine the whole concept of keeping zoos and caging animals.

The remarks were part of a written order issued on Saturday regarding the Nov 6 hearing of a petition seeking shifting of lone female bear Rano from Karachi Zoological Gardens to Bear Sanctuary, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board.

The order stated that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and other respondents filed statements and reports and submitted that Rano had been successfully transported to the federal capital on Nov 5 in compliance with the orders issued by the bench earlier.

However, the bench enhanced the scope of the petition from Rano to the welfare of all animals kept in zoos and invited suggestions as to how to phase out zoos in the entire province.

Sindh Wildlife Conservator Javed Ahmed Mahar proposed that a committee may be constituted with the municipal commissioner, forest & wildlife secretary, wildlife conservator and KMC's senior director-zoo as its members.

Representing the petitioner, Mohammad Jibran Nasir also suggested that philanthropist Ava Ardeshir Cowasjee, Dr Uzma Khan from Asia lead for WWF Pakistan, Advocate Nazia Hanjrah, Zhalay Sarhadi and petitioner/animal rights activist Jude Allen Preira may also be made part of the committee.

The bench ordered constitution of the committee and inclusion of all the names suggested by the wildlife conservator and the petitioner's counsel.

The bench in its order stated: "In addition, the committee shall be given mandate to co-opt experts of the subject fields, who shall visit the zoos in the province and suggests steps for improvement in the zoos and identify issues being confronted by them at the moment to resolve them as a short term measure. As a long term measures, they shall recommend steps to be taken which may include but not limited to sending the exotic animals to their natural habitat."

It further stated that as per the petitioner's counsel the committee, constituted by the chief minister for shifting of Rano, had visited Karachi Zoo and found all the medical equipment out of order.

The bench stated that Zoo Director Aklaq Ahmed Yousufzai had undertaken to replace all out-of-order machines immediately and to outsource vets for treatment of the animals.

The hearing was adjourned till Nov 21.

At a previous hearing, the bench had directed the committee formed by the CM to visit the Karachi zoo and prepare a detailed report about the number of animals kept there as well as their physical and mental health.

It also asked the committee to examine the circumstances under which animals are being kept as well as to identify the animals as natives or exotic and must also make recommendations for improving the situation if it found the animals were kept in improper conditions.

The bench further ruled that since the issue was not of one bear but hundreds of animals being kept in captivity apparently just for entertainment of people and court has decided to examine the whole concept of keeping zoos and caging animals.

Call to declare health emergency in Karachi, Hyderabad amid dengue surge

• PMA alleges lack of political will to ensure sanitation, waste management and fumigation turned cities into breeding sites of mosquitoes • Over 400 patients currently under treatment in public and private hospitals: health dept • Officials say over 11,700 cases reported from Sindh this year

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: As the dengue fever crisis persists with more than 400 patients battling the mosquito-borne viral infection in hospitals across the province, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has called upon the government to immediately declare a health emergency in the most affected divisions of Karachi and Hyderabad and launch effective vector-control measures.

Data released by the provincial health department showed that 11,763 dengue fever cases — 6,199 cases this month — have been recorded this year in the province.

Against this backdrop, the PMA called for an independent audit of the provincial dengue prevention and control programme and for oversight of municipal services to identify and hold accountable the officials responsible for the worsening situation.

"The dengue crisis is a man-made tragedy rooted in the systemic dysfunction of government bodies. The lack of political will to ensure sanitation, waste management, and timely and effective fumigation has turned our cities into breeding grounds for the Aedes mosquito. Every death reported is a verdict on the failure of the local government and the provincial health department," the association

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Clifton residents protest commercialisation of neighbourhood parks

Oppose plan to convert family parks into padel courts

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Residents of Clifton Block 5 held a peaceful protest on Saturday evening at The Justice Rana Bhagwandas Family Park to oppose the conversion of neighbourhood parks into padel courts and the commercialisation of quiet residential areas.

The Justice Rana Bhagwandas Family Park and Dr Fareduddin Sethna Family Park were renovated in 2022 under the World Bank–funded Karachi Neighbourhood Improvement Project (KNIP) using public funds.

The residents expressed concern that these newly upgraded parks — complete with walkways, greenery, benches, and lighting — are being dismantled for private purposes, bringing late-night lights, noise, and traffic to peaceful residential areas.

"These parks were built for the community, not for commercialisation," said a resident representative from the Save Bhagwandas Park Campaign. "Millions were spent under KNIP to create safe, family-friendly spaces. It's unacceptable that public parks are being torn down just two years later."

It may be noted that the Sindh High Court and Supreme Court have both ruled that public amenity land — including parks — cannot be leased, granted, or converted for private or commercial use.

Residents have also become parties to a constitutional petition at the SHC to legally halt all commercial construction and ensure that these parks remain public, peaceful, and non-commercial spaces.

Boundary walls of Beach Park, Bagh Ibn-i-Qasim demolished

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has torn down the outer walls of the Beach Park and Bagh Ibn-i-Qasim in Clifton to "show green beauty vibrantly and openly to the public like parks in other countries".

A KMC spokesperson told *Dawn* that the decision would only be applied to the two parks facing Clifton Beach.

Regarding a video that went viral on social media showing some people taking out iron bars from the rubble, he said that it was KMC staff and the iron bars will be used in future infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader of the Karachi City Council Advocate Saifuddin strongly condemned the demolition of the protective walls of Bagh Ibn-i-Qasim and Beach Park, calling the move a criminal act.

He has sent an official letter to Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, with copies forwarded to Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and mayor Murtaza Wahab.

In his letter, Mr Saifuddin demanded an immediate halt to the demolition and the reconstruction of the destroyed walls, stressing that tearing down park walls built with millions of rupees in public funds is a gross misuse of authority.

He questioned, "Who can authorise the demolition of properties worth crores? The parks are being destroyed, and now their beautiful walls are being razed as well. Without these protective boundaries, how will the park's safety and demarcation be ensured?"

He termed the action incomprehensible and regrettable, calling for a thorough investigation and strict punishment for those responsible.

Such a major decision cannot be made without the City Council's approval, he said and reiterated that Bagh Ibn-i-Qasim is a landmark of Karachi, and protecting and maintaining it is the primary responsibility of municipal authorities.

A GROUP of residents protests over commercialisation of public parks.—Dawn

Five Umrah passengers held for planning to go to Italy via sea

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday offloaded five passengers and claimed to have foiled their attempt to travel illegally to Italy via a sea route under the pretext of performing Umrah in Saudi Arabia, officials said.

An FIA spokesperson said that during the immigration clearance process, the agency found five passengers — identified as Raheedullah, Abdul Hameed, Abdul Shakoor, Ismail and Ahmedullah — suspicious. All of them hailed from Bannu, Peshawar, Khyber and Mohmand areas, he added.

The spokesperson said the passengers were travelling to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah on the flight PA-170. However, during the initial probe, it transpired that they were in contact with various agents based in Peshawar and had planned to proceed from Saudi Arabia to Egypt, then Libya, and finally to Italy illegally through the sea route.

It also emerged that each of the passengers had paid Rs4.5 million to the agents, and they were supposed to pay an additional Rs1.5m each upon reaching Libya.

The detained individuals were handed over to the FIA's Anti-Human Trafficking Circle for further legal action.

Truck runs over, kills biker on Native Jetty Bridge

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Another incident of reckless driving claimed the life of a motorcyclist on the Native Jetty Bridge on Saturday morning, police said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said two men riding a motorbike were on their way from the Native Jetty Bridge to 'Ghas Bandar' when a fast-moving truck hit them. They fell from the bike and suffered serious injuries. They were taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where doctors pronounced Heera Lal, 47, dead while Ramji, 55, was admitted for treatment, the officer added.

The truck driver managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind his vehicle, which was impounded by the Docks police.

The DIG attributed negligent driving as the probable cause of the fatal accident.

Car runs over, kills labourer on Karsaz Road

Meanwhile, a labourer was killed when a car hit him on the main Karsaz Road early Saturday morning, an Edhi Foundation spokesperson said.

Sharing details, a traffic police official said that the car driver was involved in rash and negligent driving as the vehicle went out of his control and came onto the footpath, injuring the labourer who was working there.

The victim, identified as Bagh Chand Sukhio, 36, was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where he was pronounced dead.

The car driver was arrested and the vehicle impounded.